

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously presented) A file manager provided for locating a file identified by a path referring to a unit and an identifier, comprising:
 - a table for associating said file with a priority list of physical units,
 - wherein said physical units store a plurality of versions of said file,
 - wherein said table comprises a plurality of associations of a same file logical path name and a file name in a one-to-one correspondence with a plurality of physical units, and
 - wherein each of said plurality of associations comprises an association of a unique version of said file having said same file logical path name and said file name such that each of said stored plurality of versions of said file are not duplicated.
2. (Original) A file manager according to claim 1, further comprising a unit for modifying said priority list.
3. (Original) A file manager according to claim 1, wherein said table also defines attributes for each item of said priority list.
4. (Original) A file manager according to claim 2, wherein said table also defines attributes for each item of said priority list.
5. (Original) A file manager according to claim 3, wherein said table defines for said file a physical unit with a write attribute that differs from a physical unit with a read attribute.
6. (Original) A file manager according to claim 3, further comprising a unit for modifying said attributes.
7. (Original) A file manager according to claim 4, further comprising a unit for modifying said attributes.

8. (Original) A controller of peripheral devices in a computer system, comprising a file manager according to claim 1.

9. (Original) An operating system of a computer system, comprising a file manager according to claim 1.

10. (Original) A medium comprising computer readable instructions for carrying out a file manager according to claim 1.

11. (Previously presented) A file manager for locating a file, comprising:
a table for associating said file with a priority list of physical units,
wherein said file is identified by a path referring to a logical unit and an identifier,
wherein said physical units store a plurality of versions of said file,
wherein said table comprises a plurality of associations of a same file logical path name
and a file name in a one-to-one correspondence with a plurality of physical units, and
wherein each of said plurality of associations comprises an association of a unique
version of said file having said same file logical path name and said file name such that each of
said stored plurality of versions of said file are not duplicated.

12. (Original) The file manager of claim 11, wherein a plurality of versions of said file with a common logical identification are savable.

13. (Original) The file manager of claim 12, further comprising a modifying unit for modifying the priority list, thereby to access any of said plurality of versions.

14. (Previously presented) A method for locating a file identified by a path referring to a logical unit and an identifier, comprising:
associating, in a file manager having a table, said file with a priority list of physical units,
wherein said physical units store a plurality of versions of said file,
wherein said table comprises a plurality of associations of a same file logical path

name and a file name in a one-to-one correspondence with a plurality of physical units, and

wherein each of said plurality of associations comprises an association of a unique version of said file having said same file logical path name and said file name such that each of said stored plurality of versions of said file are not duplicated.

15. (Previously presented) The file manager, as claimed in claim 1, wherein when a second request for a file logical path name and a file name is the same as a first request, said file manager associates a physical unit listed on said priority list to said file name of said second request different from a physical unit associated with a file name of said first request.

16. (Canceled).

17. (Currently amended) The file manager, as claimed in claim 1 ~~16~~, wherein said file manager selectively accesses a first association of a same file logical path name and a file name established prior to a second association of a same file logical path name and a file name.

18. (Previously presented) The file manager, as claimed in claim 1, wherein said file manager routes a subsequent request to access a same file logical path name and a same file name as a previous request to a different version of said file logical path name and said file name on a different physical unit.

19. (Previously presented) The file manager, as claimed in claim 1, wherein said file manager establishes and maintains said priority list of physical units.

20. (Previously presented) The file manager, as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of said physical units holds a different version of said file.

21. (Previously presented) The file manager according to claim 1, wherein each of said unique versions of said file is associated with a different priority from said priority list.

22. (Previously presented) The file manager of claim 1, wherein files identified by the same file logical path name and file name and associated with different physical units comprise different attributes.

23. (New) The method of claim 14, further comprising:
selecting one of said plurality of versions of said file based on said priority list.

24. (New) The method of claim 23, further comprising:
selecting another of said plurality of versions of said file based on said priority list when said one of said plurality of versions of said file is not available.

25. (New) The method of claim 23, further comprising:
selecting another of said plurality of versions of said file based on said priority list when said one of said plurality of versions of said file malfunctions.

26. (New) The method of claim 14, further comprising:
determining equivalence of one of said plurality of versions of said file to another of said plurality of versions of said file.

27. (New) The method of claim 26,
wherein said determining equivalence comprises comparing at least one of sizes and parities of said one of said plurality of versions of said file and another of said plurality of versions of said file.

28. (New) The method of claim 26,
wherein said determining equivalence comprises determining whether a problem has occurred with one of said plurality of versions of said file during a predetermined period of time.

29. (New) The method of claim 26, further comprising:
removing a corresponding physical unit of said one of said plurality of versions of said

file from said priority list of physical units when said one of said plurality of versions of said file is determined to be equivalent to another of said plurality of versions of said file.

30. (New) The method of claim 29, further comprising:

removing said one of said plurality of versions of said file from said corresponding physical unit.

31. (New) A file manager for locating a file identified by a path referring to a logical unit and an identifier, comprising:

means for associating said file with a priority list of physical units,

wherein said physical units store a plurality of versions of said file,

wherein said means for associating comprises a plurality of associations of a same file logical path name and a file name in a one-to-one correspondence with a plurality of physical units, and

wherein each of said plurality of associations comprises an association of a unique version of said file having said same file logical path name and said file name; and

means for selecting one of said plurality of versions of said file based on said priority list of physical units.

32. (New) A file manager comprising:

a table comprising an association of at least one file with a priority list of a plurality of physical units corresponding to a plurality of versions of said at least one file, said at least one file being identified by a logical path and a name,

wherein a unique version of said at least one file is retrievable, based on said logical path and said name, from one of said plurality of physical units according to a priority order of said priority list.

33. (New) The file manager, as claimed in claim 1,

wherein said priority list includes names of said physical units.

34. (New) The file manager, as claimed in claim 1,
wherein said priority list includes only names of said physical units.
35. (New) The file manager, as claimed in claim 1,
wherein locating said file is performed in a single access of said table.
36. (New) The file manager, as claimed in claim 1,
wherein at least one of adding a new file name to the priority list and modifying said file
name is performed in a single access of said table.
37. (New) The file manager, as claimed in claim 1,
wherein said priority list of physical units is prioritized according to said plurality of
versions of said file based on at least one of a least amount of malfunctions in said versions, a
least bugged version of said versions, an availability of said versions, and a date of said versions.
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